

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

A plurality of overlapping spiral wound shoulder layers 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52 and [[52]] 54 are provided in the shoulder 18 of the tire 10. Each of the spiral wound shoulder layers 42, 44, and 46 is defined by a single circumferential turn of strip 38 in which adjacent turns are shifted laterally by less than one strip width (W_s) so that the shoulder layers 42, 44, and 46 have a partially overlapping or staggered relationship. In other words, the winding pitch for spiral wound shoulder layers 42, 44, and 46 is less than one (1) strip width per revolution. The remaining spiral wound shoulder layers 48, 50, 52, and [[52]] 54 are applied with a winding pitch equal to one strip width per revolution such that there is no overlapping build up in the tire crown region beyond the overlap afforded by spiral wound belt layers 34, 36. The lateral shift of less than one strip width is apparent in Figs. 1-3 as adjacent turns of strip 38 contribute to the partially overlapping relationship. In a central region of the shoulder 18, an overlapping relationship is established to provide an ultimate thickness equal to six strip thicknesses.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

To apply the spiral wound shoulder layers 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52 and [[52]] 54 and with continued reference to Figs. 1-3, the first spiral wound belt layer 34 is applied to the tire 10. After a final turn shoulder layer 54 of spiral wound belt layer 34 is applied, the winding pitch is changed from greater than or equal to one strip width per revolution (i.e., a zero degree pitch) to

a winding pitch that is less than one (1) strip width per revolution. In the exemplary embodiment depicted in Figs. 1-3, the spiral wound shoulder layers 42, 44, and 46 are shifted laterally by approximately 0.2 of a strip width per revolution. The spiral wound shoulder layers 42, 44, and 46 are applied serially or sequentially from left to right, as best visible in Fig. 1. Spiral wound shoulder layers 48 and 50 are applied with a winding pitch of approximately zero so that shoulder layers 48, 50 roughly overlap shoulder layer 48. Then, the winding pitch is reverted to greater than or equal to one strip width per revolution. Spiral wound shoulder layer 52 is applied with the unitary winding pitch of one strip width, in an opposite or reverse winding direction from shoulder layers 42, 44, and 46. After shoulder layer 52 is applied, the circumferential turns of strip 38 transition into forming the spiral wound belt layer 36. At the opposite shoulder 18, another set of spiral wound shoulder layers (not shown but similar to spiral wound shoulder layers 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, and 52) is applied to tire 10.